

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please replace the originally filed Fig. 2B with the new Fig. 2B included on the attached drawing sheet marked REPLACEMENT SHEET. The new Fig. 2B has been amended to clearly show the gap defined in claim 50, as required by the Examiner. If, for any reason, the replacement drawing sheets are not in full compliance with the pertinent statutes and regulations, please so advise the undersigned.

Attachments: One (1) sheet marked Replacement Sheet including Figs. 2A-2C.

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend Fig. 2B. The originally filed specification, drawings, and claims fully support the subject matter of amended Fig. 2B. Claims 1, 2, 6-27, 31-50, 52-65, and 87-94 remain pending in the application. Claims 1, 26, 50, and 91 are the sole independent claims.

As an initial matter, Applicants would like to take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 50, 52-65, and 89-94 are allowed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6-27, 31-49, 87, and 88 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph for allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that “[t]he specification fails to provide support for the new limitation that the groove in the holder receiv[es] both the protrusion on the cutter portion and the storage portion.” See page 5 of the final Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Support can be found, for example, in paragraph [0008] of the published application. Furthermore, the disclosed “groove” is shown and described, for example, as a recess (labeled as holding ring 60) in Fig. 2B and within the corresponding portions of the specification (e.g., paragraphs [0034] and [0036] of the published application). For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph rejection.

Objection to the Specification

In the final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification for allegedly failing to provide proper antecedent basis “for the new limitation that the holder has a groove for receiving both a protrusion on the cutting portion and a protrusion on the storage

portion.” See page 4 of the final Office Action. As stated above, the specification provides adequate antecedent basis for the claimed “groove”. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Objection to the Drawings

In the final Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Examiner asserts that (A) “the groove in the holder receiving both the protrusions on the cutter portion and the storage portion” and (B) “the gap in the holder, including one with a shape corresponding to that of the non-straight portion of the second end effector” must be shown or the features cancelled from the claims. See page 3 of the final Office Action.

With respect to item (A), as stated above the disclosed “groove” is shown as holding ring 60 in Fig. 2B. With respect to item (B), Applicants have amended the drawings to include gap 252, which has a shape corresponding to the non-straight portion of the second end effector, as shown in Fig. 2B. Support for amended Fig. 2B can be found at least in paragraph [0047] of the published application. Therefore, Applicants assert that no new matter has been entered by this amendment. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

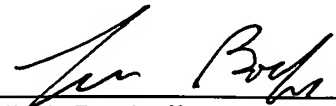
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Amendment and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: March 3, 2008

By: _____


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Attachments: One (1) Replacement Sheet